

TARGETED MANIPULATION OF GENES IN PLANTS
ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Methods and compositions for altering a nucleotide sequence of interest in a plant is provided. The method involves introducing a chimeric oligonucleotide into a plant cell, wherein the oligonucleotide comprises at least two intervening blocks of RNA residues with intervening DNA residues. The RNA blocks are homologous to a plant nucleotide sequence. The chimeric oligonucleotide is capable of folding to form a duplex oligonucleotide. The chimeric oligonucleotide is maintained within the nucleus of the plant whereby the alteration is introduced into the target sequences of the plant genome.

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